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cotton gloves. The varnish is made up according to the following directions: 6 parts of orange shellac are dissolved in 24 parts of warm 95 per cent alcohol. To the resulting solution 1 part of castor oil is added. The varnish is kept in well stoppered bottles to prevent evaporation of the alcohol.

In addition to the use of the varnish or the impregnated cotton gloves, the workers should be made to wash their hands and fore-arms with a 10 per cent solution of sodium sulphite before leaving the factory.

A trial of the sulphite wash in a shell-filling plant has demonstrated that the workers are very anxious to use this prophylactic. Chemical analysis has shown that a considerable amount of T. N. T. can be removed from the human skin by this solvent, even after the skin has been thoroughly washed with soap and water.

5. *Exclusion of anæmic workers.*—Workers who show a slight grade of anæmia or any other symptoms which would indicate a lowered body resistance, should be rigidly excluded from contact with T. N. T.

The authors acknowledge excellent assistance rendered in this investigation by Drs. White and Mendenhall, Misses Crane, Connell, and Wright.

The detailed report will appear in the near future as a Hygienic Laboratory Bulletin.

MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE FOR NURSES.

The rapid extension of clinic service in connection with the control of venereal diseases, and the recognized importance of skilled follow-up work from every clinic, have led to the preparation of a special course in medical social service for graduate nurses.

This course has been arranged by the Public Health Service, in cooperation with Columbia University, Bellevue Hospital, and the New York School of Social Work. Provision for 15 scholarships has been made by the American Red Cross.

The course opens on July 1 and will continue for approximately four months. Its aim is to offer to qualified women who have had the scientific training of graduate nurse a view of the social problems implied in the control of venereal diseases. Already health departments have asked that at the completion of this course the graduate nurse be assigned to the departments for duty.

At Columbia University the course will be offered in connection with the summer's session at Teachers College, department of nursing and health. Since there is not in existence a group of teachers whose special field is this—the social backgrounds of venereal diseases—the speakers will be drawn from the ranks of those who have

made special studies of individual aspects of the problem. This list already includes the following speakers:

Dr. Maurice A. Bigelow, Teachers College.

Asst. Surg. Gen. C. C. Pierce, Division of Venereal Diseases, United States Public Health Service.

Dr. Mabel S. Ulrich, United States Public Health Service.

Dr. E. L. Keyes, jr., Bellevue Hospital.

Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow, Yale University.

Mr. E. H. Pettit, New York School of Social Work.

Mr. E. F. Van Buskirk, United Public Health Service.

Other speakers will be announced at an early date.

The method of work includes a brief preliminary survey of the subject, which will cover the first week of the course.

At Bellevue Hospital selected clinics will be open to the attending students, and a preliminary discussion of the venereal diseases will be given by Dr. Keyes.

After the opening of the summer session at Columbia, students will attend certain lectures of the regular course at Teachers College, for which university credit may be claimed, as well as the special lectures on the social relationships of the venereal disease campaign. These special lectures will include a study of the causes, social and economic, of venereal diseases, and prevalence and distribution of these diseases so far as authentic information is available. The study of causes will include: The racial tendencies, conditions in home and family life, defective education, the nature of recreation and diversions offered for the leisure of young people, personal and community standards, conditions of country and city, and the problems of adolescence, low mentality, drug taking, alcohol, etc.

Another theme of the entire course is that of control and prevention of venereal diseases by administrative and educational means. Legislation—Federal, State, and municipal—in its various types and forms, and methods of enforcing legislation, together with the legal problems that arise as a result, will be considered. A clear explanation will be given of the organization and functions of departments of health—State or local—and of the United States Public Health Service and the special interrelationships of these departments in the control of venereal diseases will be emphasized.

Methods of education and suitable and effective means of publicity find a place on the program. A course of medical lectures will be given by Dr. Keyes, discussing more in detail the characteristics of the venereal diseases, and their treatment and control through clinics and follow-up work.

The closing weeks of the course will be spent in intensive study of social service in the clinics of Bellevue Hospital. Under the direction of the Social Service Department of the Hospital, students will

be given opportunity to study methods of social service in related clinics, and to see, in the mass, illustrations of such problems as the unmarried mother, the feeble-minded, and the handicapped child whose condition is potentially or actually related to the immediate problem of venereal diseases. The new clinic for venereal diseases, just being established at Bellevue Hospital, will be available for special intensive study by students of the course. The clinical material in this department is hardly to be surpassed elsewhere in the country.

Throughout the season special conferences will be held from time to time with the supervising nurse of the Division of Venereal Diseases, United States Public Health Service.

Further information concerning the terms of admission and the means of securing scholarships may be had from Asst. Surg. Gen. C. C. Pierce, Division of Venereal Diseases, United States Public Health Service, 228 First Street NW., Washington, D. C.

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF VENEREAL DISEASES, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

Medical Activities.

The Government and Red Cross clinics of the extra-cantonment zones have gradually been transferred to the State boards of health, and are being operated under the plan for nation-wide control of venereal diseases which is being carried out under the provisions of the Chamberlain-Kahn Act.

Reports received from 67 of the 250 free venereal disease clinics operated under the joint supervision of the Public Health Service and the State boards of health show that there were 3,468 new cases of venereal diseases admitted during the month of April. These new admissions were classified as follows: One thousand six hundred and forty-three cases of gonorrhea, 1,501 of syphilis, 144 of chancroid, 6 of balanitis gangrenosa, and 174 cases of other venereal infections.

The total number of patients discharged during this period as no longer a menace to the public health was 1,071. Of this number, 140 were discharged as cured, 747 as probably cured, and 184 as non-infectious but not cured. The term "probably cured" is used in the discharging of all syphilitic and gonorrheal patients, while those detained for treatment against their own volition are discharged as "noninfectious but not cured," or, when they become no longer a menace to the public health.